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LETTER DATED 29 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued on 27 April 1993 by Mr. B. N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, concerning the question of a settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the text of the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Statement by Mr. B. N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, concerning the question of a settlement in the former Yugoslavia

In a statement issued on 9 March, the President of Russia emphasized that there was no alternative to the Vance-Owen plan and pointed out that any party to the conflict which did not accept it in principle would incur serious responsibility.

Today, in spite of all the efforts that have been made, the plan was rejected by the Assembly of the Bosnian Serbs. The referendum on the Vance-Owen plan which they will be holding in mid-May must result in a more carefully considered decision.

The Russian Federation will not protect anyone who opposes the international community. Both the Serbian nationalists and any other parties to the conflict who are counting on force will meet with a sharp rebuff from the United Nations.

In the present circumstances, it is especially important that unity should exist among the permanent members of the Security Council, the European Community, all peace-loving States and international organizations.

It was precisely such considerations which led us to put forward our proposals for various courses of action, such as a meeting of the opposing sides in the area of the conflict under the auspices of the joint chairmen and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries which are permanent members of the Security Council; the stationing of United Nations observers in trouble spots in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on its borders; the convening of a second session of the London Conference or a special meeting on the former Yugoslavia in the context of security in the Balkans as a whole. The time has come for decisive action to extinguish the conflict.